

1. *Siegfried*, Richard Wagner
2. BLANK
3. *A cave in a forest with a smith's forge, anvil and tools.*
4. *Mime is hammering at a sword and then stops in deep frustration.*
5. BLANK
6. What endless toil! And for what?
7. It's the most powerful sword I've ever made, it would do for a giant,
8. but the insolent brat snaps it in two as if it were a plaything!
9. BLANK
10. There is one sword he couldn't break.
11. BLANK
12. He wouldn't be able to challenge me with Nothung,
13. if only I had the skill to weld its pieces together!
14. If only I could forge it for the boy,
15. my shame would become my joy!
16. BLANK
17. Fafner, the terrible dragon,
18. BLANK
19. lurks in the dark wood,
20. guarding the Nibelung gold with his fearsome size.
21. BLANK
22. Siegfried's vigorous strength would make Fafner easy prey.
23. He would win the Nibelung ring for me.
24. Only one sword will suffice.
25. Only Nothung will serve me, swung furiously by Siegfried!
26. BLANK
27. But I cannot forge it, not Nothung!
28. BLANK
29. What endless toil! And for what?
30. It's the most powerful sword I've ever made,
31. but it will never work for what I need.
32. I carry on because the boy insists,
33. but he snaps it in two,
34. then reviles me if I don't continue to forge!
35. BLANK
36. *Siegfried enters with a bear on a rope.*
37. BLANK
38. Get him! Gobble him up, the ugly, old smith!
39. BLANK
40. Get that thing out!
41. – A bear inside?! – I brought you a helper!
42. Bear, ask him about the sword!
43. Get it away! There's the sword,
44. – I just finished it today. – Then you're off the hook for now!
45. Go bear, I don't need you anymore.
46. BLANK
47. I don't object to hunting bears,

48. but how dare you bring a live beast inside?  
49. I was looking for better company than you.  
50. So, I sounded my horn deep in the forest.  
51. I called out to see if I might find a friendly chum!  
52. BLANK  
53. A bear came out of the bush and listened to me play.  
54. I like him better than you, but I think I can find better!  
55. I bound him with a rope and led him here,  
56. to ask you about the sword.  
57. I've made it very sharp,  
58. it's cutting edge is sure to please you.  
59. What good is a sharp edge if its steel isn't true?  
60. BLANK  
61. This is nothing but a worthless toy!  
62. It's a feeble pin, you call that a sword?  
63. It's lying there in pieces, you clumsy boaster!  
64. I should have broken it over your skull!  
65. Will this bigmouth keep on duping me?  
66. BLANK  
67. He babbles of giants and might battles,  
68. of brave deeds and clever defense.  
69. He wants to make swords,  
70. going on about his fine skill.  
71. But with a single blow,  
72. I smash it to bits!  
73. BLANK  
74. If he weren't so pathetic,  
75. I'd kill the stupid dwarf with his own sword!  
76. Then my anger would be satisfied!  
77. BLANK  
78. Now you're raving like a fool again,  
79. you ungrateful, heartless boy.  
80. If I give the boy anything but the best,  
81. he quickly forgets all the good I've done!  
82. BLANK  
83. Remember what I taught you about gratitude?  
84. You should learn to obey me.  
85. Haven't I always shown you love?  
86. BLANK  
87. You're not even listening to me!  
88. BLANK  
89. I bet you need to eat something.  
90. I'll bring you some roasted meat.  
91. Or would you like to try this broth?  
92. I've made it for you just now.  
93. I can cook my own food,  
94. and you can eat that slop!

95. So that's how my love is repaid?  
96. That's what I get for all my efforts!  
97. BLANK  
98. I took you in as a babe,  
99. I kept you warm and fed you well,  
100. I cared for you like a son.  
101. And as you grew up, I kept you safe,  
102. I made you a warm bed to sleep in.  
103. I made toys for you and gave you a trumpet to play.  
104. I gladly toiled to make you happy.  
105. I gave you clever counsel,  
106. sharpened your wits with knowledge.  
107. I slaved and toiled at home,  
108. so that you could go roaming around.  
109. I wear myself out in misery and pain for you alone.  
110. This poor, old dwarf has done all this for you!  
111. And for all my worry, this is my reward,  
112. the boy torments me and hates me!  
113. BLANK  
114. You have taught me, Mime. I've learned a great deal from you.  
115. But one thing you could never teach me...  
116. BLANK  
117. ...was how to bear the sight of you.  
118. BLANK  
119. Though you bring me food,  
120. it is revulsion alone that feeds me.  
121. Though you make me a warm bed,  
122. my sleep is driven away.  
123. Though you would teach me to be witty,  
124. I'd rather remain deaf and dumb.  
125. At a glance, I can see that all you do is evil!  
126. BLANK  
127. When I watch you,  
128. shuffling and hobbling around,  
129. bent over, always squinting,  
130. I'd like to grab you by the neck and end your infernal squinting!  
131. BLANK  
132. That's how I learned to endure you, Mime.  
133. If you're so wise, help me understand something I've long pondered:  
134. I run to the forest to escape you,  
135. so why do I always come back?  
136. Every creature is more beloved to me than you,  
137. both tree and bird, fish and stream,  
138. all are dearer to me than you.  
139. BLANK  
140. How is it that I keep coming back to you?  
141. If you're so wise, tell me that.

142. BLANK  
143. My child, that clearly shows how dear I am to your heart.  
144. But I can't stand you,  
145. have you forgotten?  
146. That comes from the wildness in your heart,  
147. such wildness that should be tamed.  
148. BLANK  
149. The young yearn for their parents' nest,  
150. and this yearning is called love.  
151. BLANK  
152. And so, you also yearn for me,  
153. you love your dear Mime,  
154. you must love me!  
155. Like a mother bird with her chicks,  
156. nurturing them in the nest before they can fly,  
157. that is what the sage and caring Mime is to his child,  
158. that's what he must be to you!  
159. Hey Mime, if you're so clever, explain something else to me!  
160. BLANK  
161. The birds sang happily in the spring, their songs loving and playful,  
162. When I asked, you said they were husband and wife.  
163. They cooed so fondly and never left each other's side,  
164. they built a nest and hatched their eggs,  
165. and soon chicks were fluttering around,  
166. cherished by their parents.  
167. BLANK  
168. And in the forest, there were also deer lying in pairs,  
169. wild foxes and wolves as well,  
170. the father brought food to the lair,  
171. while the mother suckled the young ones.  
172. BLANK  
173. That's where I learned what love might be.  
174. I never robbed the mother of her young.  
175. BLANK  
176. Now tell me, Mime, where is your dear little wife,  
177. the one I could call my mother?  
178. What's wrong with you, fool? Are you stupid?  
179. Are you a bird or a fox?  
180. You brought the babe in,  
181. kept him warm and well fed.  
182. But how did you get the babe?  
183. Did you create me without a mother?  
184. You must believe me.  
185. I am both father and mother to you.  
186. You're lying, foul creature!  
187. All the young resemble their parents.  
188. I know because I saw it for myself.

189. One day in a clear brook,  
190. I saw a reflection of the trees and animals.  
191. The sun and clouds appeared in the shimmer exactly as they are.  
192. BLANK  
193. Then I saw my own reflection...  
194. BLANK  
195. ...quite different from you, I thought,  
196. as if a toad resembles a fish.  
197. No fish ever had a toad for a father!  
198. What an absurd notion!  
199. Look, now I finally understand,  
200. something I tried to understand but couldn't.  
201. If I run off into the woods to escape you,  
202. now I know why I always come back.  
203. I cannot leave...  
204. until you tell me who my mother and father are!  
205. What father? What mother?  
206. What an idiotic question!  
207. BLANK  
208. Then I'll make you tell me,  
209. I'll never get anything out of you willingly!  
210. I have to force everything out of you.  
211. I wouldn't have learned to speak except that I forced you!  
212. Now, out with it, you villain!  
213. BLANK  
214. – Who are my parents? – You're choking me to death!  
215. Let me go and I'll tell you everything I know.  
216. BLANK  
217. You are a thankless, wicked child.  
218. Now you will learn why you hate me!  
219. I am neither father nor kin to you,  
220. but you owe me a debt of gratitude!  
221. You are a stranger to me.  
222. I sheltered you here out of compassion,  
223. and this is what I get!  
224. I'm foolish to have expected thanks!  
225. BLANK  
226. One day I found a woman lying in the woods crying.  
227. BLANK  
228. I helped her here to warm up by the fire.  
229. BLANK  
230. She was carrying a child in her womb; she gave birth here.  
231. She writhed back and forth; I helped as much as I could.  
232. She suffered terribly!  
233. BLANK  
234. She died.  
235. BLANK

236. But Siegfried survived.  
237. So, my mother died because of me?  
238. BLANK  
239. She charged me with your care.  
240. BLANK  
241. I gladly cared for the child.  
242. BLANK  
243. What trouble Mime took! I was so good to you!  
244. I took you in as a babe...  
245. Yes, you've already told me!  
246. BLANK  
247. Now tell me, why am I called Siegfried?  
248. Your mother commanded me to call you that,  
249. as Siegfried you'd be handsome and strong.  
250. BLANK  
251. I kept you warm...  
252. Now tell me, what was her name?  
253. That I really don't know. I fed you well...  
254. Her name! Tell me her name!  
255. It seems I've forgotten... wait!  
256. Maybe it was Sieglinde who gave you to me.  
257. I cared for you like a son...  
258. Now tell me who my father was.  
259. I never saw him.  
260. Did my mother ever say his name?  
261. He died in battle, that's all she said.  
262. Then the orphan was left in my care.  
263. And as you grew up, I kept you safe,  
264. I made you a warm bed to sleep in.  
265. Stop with that monotonous song!  
266. If I'm to believe your story,  
267. and if you're not lying,  
268. – then show me some token of proof! – How can I prove it?  
269. I can't trust your words, show me something I can see,  
270. what proof can you show me?  
271. BLANK  
272. Your mother gave me this,  
273. for my nurturing and service, she left this as payment.  
274. Look at it, just a broken sword!  
275. She said your father carried it when he was killed in battle.  
276. Then you must forge these fragments for me.  
277. Then I'll finally wield my rightful sword!  
278. Get up, Mime! Get started quickly!  
279. Show me your skill if you can!  
280. Don't trick me with useless trash!  
281. I'll put my trust in these fragments alone!  
282. If you piece them together badly,

283. if you poorly patch the steel,  
284. you'll feel my blows on your cowardly hide,  
285. I'll teach you what a real thrashing is!  
286. I swear to you, I want the sword today!  
287. I must have the sword today!  
288. What do you want with it today?  
289. BLANK  
290. To leave the forest find the world, I'm never coming back!  
291. I'm so happy to have become free, nothing can hold me back.  
292. You're not my father; I'll find my home far from here.  
293. Your house isn't mine, your roof isn't my shelter.  
294. Happy as a fish in the water, or a bird in the air,  
295. I'm leaving this place, floating away, as fast as the wind!  
296. BLANK  
297. Then, Mime, I'm never coming back!  
298. BLANK  
299. Stop!  
300. Where are you going, Siegfried? Hey!  
301. BLANK  
302. He storms away!  
303. BLANK  
304. And here I sit.  
305. BLANK  
306. On top of my old worries, I now have a new one!  
307. Now I'm caught in a trap!  
308. BLANK  
309. What can I do now?  
310. How can I hold him here?  
311. How can I lead him to Fafner's lair?  
312. How can I forge the fragments of this stubborn steel?  
313. No fire can fuse these pure pieces,  
314. no hammer can subdue their hardness.  
315. BLANK  
316. Neither greed, necessity nor sweat of the Nibelung  
317. can restore Nothung for me.  
318. Nothing can put the sword back into one piece!  
319. Greetings, wise smith!  
320. BLANK  
321. Kindly grant a travel-weary guest the warmth of your hearth!  
322. Who's there? Who's looking for me here?  
323. Who has followed me through the forest?  
324. The world calls me "Wanderer" as I have wandered the world over.  
325. Then don't stop here.  
326. Since the world calls you "Wanderer," keep wandering!  
327. Good people have always welcomed me,  
328. BLANK  
329. Some have welcomed me with gifts,

330. Only the ungracious are fearful of bad fortune.  
331. I'm well-acquainted with bad fortune,  
332. do you want to make it worse for me?  
333. I've traveled far and learned much,  
334. I've often imparted wisdom,  
335. lightened heavy sorrows and eased afflicted hearts.  
336. You may have traveled far and learned much,  
337. but I don't need a scout.  
338. Leave me alone, loiterers are not welcome here.  
339. Many believe themselves wise,  
340. but cannot perceive what they need.  
341. I allow them to ask for guidance,  
342. my words bringing sage counsel.  
343. Many cherish idle knowledge, but I know all I need to.  
344. My wit will suffice, I don't need anything.  
345. So let the wise man be on his way!  
346. BLANK  
347. I sit at your hearth and wager my very head,  
348. in a bet with you over knowledge.  
349. BLANK  
350. You will have won my head,  
351. if you don't learn what you need to know.  
352. BLANK  
353. How can I get rid of this spy?  
354. BLANK  
355. I need to trip him up with my questions.  
356. BLANK  
357. Your head if you fail, try your best to save it!  
358. – I shall ask three questions! – You shall receive three answers.  
359. BLANK  
360. You've roamed all over the earth, wandered far and wide:  
361. BLANK  
362. Then, what race lives in the depths of the earth?  
363. The Nibelung dwell in the depths of the earth.  
364. Nibelheim is their land.  
365. They are imps of darkness and Alberich was once their leader!  
366. BLANK  
367. By a magic ring's power, he ruled that hard-working folk.  
368. They amassed a shimmering pile of treasure and gold.  
369. He intended to win the world with it.  
370. BLANK  
371. And now for your second question, dwarf?  
372. BLANK  
373. You know so much about the earth's secret caves.  
374. BLANK  
375. but what about the folk who live on the earth's surface?  
376. The giants dwell on the surface of the earth.



377. Reisenheim is their land.  
378. Their rulers, Fasolt and Fafner, were jealous of the Nibelung's power.  
379. They bested the Nibelung and won the gold, including the ring.  
380. BLANK  
381. Then a fight flared up over the ring between the brothers.  
382. Fafner slayed Fasolt, and now guards the gold as a fierce dragon.  
383. BLANK  
384. And so, you have one question left.  
385. BLANK  
386. Wanderer, you know so much about the earth's rugged surface.  
387. BLANK  
388. Now tell me truthfully,  
389. who are the ones who live in the cloudy skies?  
390. The gods live in those cloudy heights.  
391. Valhalla is their home.  
392. They are spirits of light.  
393. Wotan rules over them.  
394. He made himself a spear out of the world's most sacred ash tree.  
395. Though the tree may wither, the spear will never fail.  
396. With it, Wotan governs the world.  
397. Treaties and symbols of trust are carved into its shaft.  
398. He who holds the spear rules the world, and that is Wotan.  
399. The Nibelung bow to him,  
400. the giants heed his counsel,  
401. BLANK  
402. They all forever obey the lord of the spear.  
403. BLANK  
404. Now tell me, wise dwarf!  
405. Have I answered correctly?  
406. Am I free to keep my head?  
407. BLANK  
408. You have both redeemed your head and answered correctly.  
409. Now, be on your way!  
410. You should have asked me what you really need to know.  
411. I have more knowledge to give,  
412. knowledge that you need.  
413. Your head will now be held as wager.  
414. BLANK  
415. You did not receive me when I came,  
416. I wagered my head so that I could enjoy your hearth.  
417. Now it's only fair to forfeit yours  
418. if you do not correctly answer my questions.  
419. BLANK  
420. So then, Mime, sharpen your wits!  
421. BLANK  
422. I left my homeland very long ago,  
423. it's long since I left my mother's lap.

424. Wotan's eyes fell on me and peered into my cave.  
425. His glance frightened away my wits.  
426. But now I must try to be wise.  
427. Wanderer, ask what you will!  
428. Perhaps I'll have luck on my side and save my head.  
429. BLANK  
430. Now, oh worthy dwarf,  
431. BLANK  
432. first answer this:  
433. BLANK  
434. Who are the people Wotan treated so harshly,  
435. yet holds most dear to his heart?  
436. BLANK  
437. I'm no expert about heroes' kin, but this question is easy to answer.  
438. The Walsung are the chosen ones that Wotan loved so tenderly,  
439. though he was harsh with them.  
440. Siegmund and Sieglinde, children of Walse,  
441. a wild and desperate set of twins.  
442. Siegfried is their child, a brave and mighty son.  
443. BLANK  
444. What do you say, Wanderer?  
445. May I keep my head?  
446. BLANK  
447. You answered correctly, so your head is safe for now.  
448. You are very clever.  
449. You've got the first one, now for the second question:  
450. BLANK  
451. A wise Nibelung watches over Siegfried,  
452. who must slay Fafner for him,  
453. and bring him the ring,  
454. making him master of the treasure.  
455. What sword must Siegfried use to kill Fafner?  
456. BLANK  
457. Nothung is the trusty sword.  
458. Wotan thrust it into an ash tree  
459. and whoever could draw it forth would own it.  
460. None of the strongest heroes could do it,  
461. only Siegmund succeeded.  
462. He wielded it into battle, but it was shattered by Wotan's spear.  
463. Now the pieces are guarded by a wise smith,  
464. for he knows this is the only sword that will kill the dragon.  
465. BLANK  
466. Have I saved my head a second time?  
467. You are wily! Who could match your cleverness?  
468. But if you are so crafty to exploit the young hero,  
469. I'll threaten you with the third question!  
470. Tell me, cunning smith:

471. Who will weld together the fragments of Nothung?  
472. The fragments! The sword! Woe, my head is swimming!  
473. Where do I begin? What can I say?  
474. Cursed steel! I wish I had never laid hands on it!  
475. It has only brought me grief and distress!  
476. The steel is impossible to hammer.  
477. Rivets and solder are of no avail.  
478. The most skilled smith is at a loss!  
479. BLANK  
480. Who will forge the sword if I cannot?  
481. How can I work this miracle?  
482. You had three questions to ask.  
483. Three times I answered you correctly.  
484. You asked me about useless things.  
485. But what was of real concern never occurred to you.  
486. Now, when I guess it, you lose your mind.  
487. And I will have won that clever head of yours!  
488. Now, as for Fafner's conqueror,  
489. listen, ruined dwarf:  
490. BLANK  
491. "Only one who has never felt fear can forge Nothung anew."  
492. BLANK  
493. Watch your head from today on.  
494. BLANK  
495. I leave it forfeit to he who has never felt fear!  
496. BLANK  
497. Loathsome light!  
498. BLANK  
499. Has the air caught fire?  
500. BLANK  
501. What's that flashing?  
502. BLANK  
503. That shimmering and swirling?  
504. BLANK  
505. What's floating around here?  
506. BLANK  
507. It gleams in the sunlight!  
508. BLANK  
509. What is that loud humming?  
510. BLANK  
511. It's growling and roaring...  
512. BLANK  
513. ...and rushing this way!  
514. It's coming for me through the woods!  
515. BLANK  
516. A monstrous abyss gapes open for me!  
517. The dragon is after me! Fafner!

518. BLANK  
519. Hey there, you slacker!  
520. BLANK  
521. Are you finished yet?  
522. BLANK  
523. Quick! How's the sword coming along?  
524. BLANK  
525. Where's that smith hiding?  
526. Did he leave?  
527. Mime, you coward, where are you? Where are you hiding?  
528. BLANK  
529. Is that you, my child? Are you alone?  
530. What's behind the anvil? What are you doing?  
531. Are you sharpening the sword?  
532. The sword? How am I supposed to forge it?  
533. "Only one who has never felt fear can forge Nothung anew."  
534. BLANK  
535. I know fear too well for such work!  
536. Won't you tell me? Do I need to help?  
537. Where could I turn for help?  
538. I have wagered away my head.  
539. BLANK  
540. It is forfeit to "he who has never felt fear."  
541. Are you trying to escape me?  
542. I would gladly escape one who knows what fear is!  
543. That's what I failed to teach the boy.  
544. I foolishly forgot the one thing that is good.  
545. He should have learned to love me, but that lesson failed!  
546. How can I teach him fear?  
547. Hey! Must I help? What have you done today?  
548. I've been lost in my thoughts...  
549. about how to teach you something important.  
550. You were lost under the seat alright.  
551. What do you find under there?  
552. BLANK  
553. I learned what fear is so I could teach it to you.  
554. What's all this about fear?  
555. You've never known it, yet you want to go out into the world?  
556. What use is the mightiest sword, if fear is foreign to you?  
557. Are you inventing worthless advice for me?  
558. These are your mother's words that I promised to obey:  
559. Not to let you venture into the world before you knew what fear is.  
560. BLANK  
561. If it's some kind of skill, why don't I know it?  
562. BLANK  
563. Out with it! What is it about fear?  
564. BLANK

565. Have you never felt in the gloomy forest...  
566. when twilight falls and everything grows dark...  
567. when you hear a rustling from afar...  
568. a savage roaring getting nearer...  
569. dizzying flames glimmering around you...  
570. BLANK  
571. whirling and swirling towards you...  
572. BLANK  
573. didn't you feel a grisly horror gripping you?  
574. A searing terror making you shudder?  
575. Your fearful heart quaking in your chest,  
576. hammering as if it would burst?  
577. BLANK  
578. If you've never felt that,  
579. then fear is still unknown to you.  
580. BLANK  
581. How very peculiar that must be!  
582. My heart remains firm and steady.  
583. BLANK  
584. That shivering and shuddering...  
585. scorching and searing...  
586. heat and giddiness...  
587. hammering and beating...  
588. BLANK  
589. I'd like to feel that,  
590. in fact, I long for that pleasure!  
591. But how can you bring it to me, Mime?  
592. BLANK  
593. How can you teach me?  
594. Just follow me, I'll guide you well.  
595. I've figured out a way.  
596. BLANK  
597. I know of an evil dragon that has devoured many men.  
598. Fafner will teach you fear if you follow me to his lair.  
599. Where is his lair?  
600. It's a place called Neidhöhle, to the east at the forest's end.  
601. Then not far from here?  
602. It's quite close by.  
603. Then you must take me there.  
604. I'll learn fear and be off into the world!  
605. BLANK  
606. Quickly! Make the sword,  
607. I will wield it in the world!  
608. The sword? Alas!  
609. Hurry to the smithy! Show what you can do!  
610. Accursed steel! I don't know how to forge it.  
611. No dwarf has the strength to subdue its mighty magic.

612. BLANK
613. One who does not know fear...
614. BLANK
615. would succeed more easily.
616. Now he's filling me with lies.
617. BLANK
618. He should confess he's incompetent.
619. He lies and cheats his way out of it.
620. Give me the pieces and get out of here!
621. BLANK
622. My father's blade will submit to me!
623. I will forge the sword myself!
624. BLANK
625. Had you been diligent to learn the craft,
626. you might be able to manage now.
627. But you were too lazy to learn,
628. so now how will you do it right?
629. Can the pupil do what the master never could,
630. even had he paid attention?
631. BLANK
632. Now go away and don't interfere...
633. or I'll put you in the fire with it!
634. BLANK
635. What are you doing?
636. Now take the solder that I've already prepared.
637. Take that mush away, I can't fire a sword with that!
638. You are ruining the file, bruising the edge!
639. Are you trying to pulverize the steel?
640. It must be splintered and ground into shreds.
641. When it's broken, I'll mend it.
642. BLANK
643. It's clear that my expertise won't help here.
644. Only his foolishness will do for him.
645. He's working so hard at it!
646. The steel is in shreds and he doesn't mind!
647. BLANK
648. I'm older than the forest and I've never seen anything like this!
649. BLANK
650. He's succeeding, I can see.
651. He's fearlessly mending it.
652. BLANK
653. The Wanderer had it right.
654. Now, how can I protect my head?
655. It will fall to the boy if Fafner doesn't teach him fear!
656. BLANK
657. Poor me!
658. How can he kill the dragon if he becomes afraid?

659. Then how will I get the ring?  
660. BLANK  
661. What a dilemma!  
662. I'm done if I can't find a way...  
663. to defeat the fearless boy myself.  
664. Hey, Mime! Hurry! What's the name of this sword?  
665. BLANK  
666. Nothung is the name of the sword,  
667. your mother told me so.  
668. BLANK  
669. Nothung! Coveted sword!  
670. Why did you have to break?  
671. I have filed your sharp splendor to shreds,  
672. and fusing the pieces back together.  
673. BLANK  
674. Blow, bellows! Blow the flame!  
675. BLANK  
676. A tree grew wild in the woods,  
677. and I felled it.  
678. I burned the brown tree into charcoal,  
679. and not it is piled up in the hearth.  
680. BLANK  
681. Blow, bellows! Blow the flame!  
682. BLANK  
683. The tree's coal burns so bright!  
684. It glows so splendidly!  
685. It pops in springing sparks!  
686. BLANK  
687. Blow, bellows! Blow the flame!  
688. He is forging the sword that will kill Fafner,  
689. I can see he will succeed.  
690. He'll win the gold and the ring in the fight.  
691. How will I get hold of the winnings?  
692. BLANK  
693. With cunning I'll win the prize and keep my head safe.  
694. BLANK  
695. When he is weary after battling the dragon,  
696. I'll quench his thirst with a drink.  
697. I'll brew a special drink from juices I've gathered.  
698. He'll only need to drink a few drops...  
699. to fall into a senseless sleep.  
700. Then with the sword that he has made...  
701. I'll get rid of him the ring and treasure will be mine!  
702. Nothung! Coveted sword!  
703. – Hey, wise old Wanderer! – The pieces are forged together!  
704. – Did I seem that dumb to you? – Now you are swimming in your own sweat!  
705. How clever am I now?

706. Haven't I found counsel and peace?  
707. Soon I'll wield you as my sword!  
708. BLANK  
709. Into the water goes the molten steel.  
710. It hisses furiously!  
711. Though it once flowed molten, it flows no longer.  
712. The steel is now firm and masterful,  
713. and soon it will draw hot blood.  
714. BLANK  
715. Now sweat once more so that I can weld you more!  
716. Nothung, coveted sword!  
717. BLANK  
718. What is he doing with that pot?  
719. BLANK  
720. While I'm melting steel, are you cooking stew?  
721. A smith has been put to shame.  
722. Now the pupil teaches the master.  
723. The old man is done smithing, and now serves the boy as cook;  
724. while he is melting steel.  
725. BLANK  
726. The old man will cook some soup from these eggs.  
727. BLANK  
728. So, the artist is now learning to cook.  
729. He's lost his taste for forging.  
730. I've shattered all of his swords,  
731. and I won't touch whatever he is cooking.  
732. BLANK  
733. He wants to lead me to fear.  
734. A stranger must teach me,  
735. Mime can't teach me and so he is useless to me.  
736. He excels at doing everything poorly!  
737. BLANK  
738. Hammer, forge me a mighty sword!  
739. BLANK  
740. Once your faded blue blade was stained with blood.  
741. Coldly you laughed and licked the hot blood.  
742. BLANK  
743. Now the fire has set you aglow,  
744. your hardness, now softened, yields to my hammer.  
745. You shower angry sparks onto me for I have conquered your pride.  
746. BLANK  
747. He is making himself a sharp sword...  
748. to slay Fafner, the dwarf's enemy.  
749. And I'm brewing a deadly tonic to subdue Siegfried when Fafner falls.  
750. My cunning must succeed.  
751. My reward will smile on me!  
752. BLANK



753. Hammer, forge me a mighty sword!  
754. BLANK  
755. These sparks fill me with happiness!  
756. Anger's force suits the brave,  
757. you smile at me though you pretend to be grim!  
758. BLANK  
759. With fire and hammer I have succeeded,  
760. Now banish your blush of shame,  
761. and be as cold and hard as you can!  
762. BLANK  
763. The ring my brother forged, on which he laid powerful magic,  
764. that shining gold that makes one master. I've won it!  
765. BLANK  
766. Alberich once enslaved me in shackles,  
767. now I'll be the one to enslave him.  
768. I'll be the prince of the Nibelung,  
769. they will all have to obey me!  
770. BLANK  
771. How the despised dwarf will be revered!  
772. BLANK  
773. Both heroes and gods will bow to me,  
774. the world will be on its knees,  
775. all will tremble at my wrath!  
776. Nothung! Coveted sword!  
777. You are fixed again in your hilt.  
778. I'll never have to toil again.  
779. Once in pieces, I have now made you whole.  
780. You'll never be splintered again.  
781. My slaves will produce treasure for me.  
782. The steel that once broke in my dying father's hands,  
783. is made new in the hands of his son,  
784. it's bright luster now gleaming,  
785. BLANK  
786. its hard sharp edge will cut cleanly for me.  
787. Mime, the brave. Mime, the king.  
788. Prince of elves. Ruler of all!  
789. Nothung! Coveted sword!  
790. BLANK  
791. I've brought you back to life.  
792. You laid dead and in pieces,  
793. now you gleam defiantly.  
794. Hey, Mime! How fortunate you are!  
795. Let every villain cower from your shine!  
796. Who would have thought?  
797. Strike every imposter, fell every rogue!  
798. Look here, smith:  
799. BLANK

800. Siegfried's sword is as mighty as this!  
801. BLANK  
802. In the forest at night, I watch over Neidhöhle.  
803. I strain my ears,  
804. my eyes peer hard.  
805. BLANK  
806. Timid day, are you breaking already?  
807. Is dawn coming out of darkness?  
808. BLANK  
809. What's that gleam of light?  
810. BLANK  
811. A clear light is coming closer.  
812. BLANK  
813. It runs like a fiery steed.  
814. Is it coming this way as it breaks through the woods?  
815. BLANK  
816. Is the dragon slayer already approaching?  
817. Is this the man who will slay Fafner?  
818. BLANK  
819. The light is fading.  
820. BLANK  
821. The glow disappears from my sight.  
822. BLANK  
823. It's night again.  
824. BLANK  
825. Who approaches there, gleaming in the darkness?  
826. BLANK  
827. I've travelled to Neidhöhle by night,  
828. BLANK  
829. who is that in the darkness?  
830. BLANK  
831. How dare you show yourself here?  
832. What do you want? Get out of here!  
833. Begone, you shameless thief!  
834. Alberich, why are you here? Are you guarding Fafner's lair?  
835. Are you searching for mischief?  
836. Be on your way, and then stay away!  
837. We have endured enough of your deceit!  
838. Leave us now in peace!  
839. BLANK  
840. I'm only here to look,  
841. not to act.  
842. Who would bar the path of the Wanderer?  
843. You treacherous trickster!  
844. Wouldn't you like me to be as stupid as before,  
845. when I allowed myself to be tricked by you?  
846. Wouldn't it be so easy to steal the ring from me again?

847. BLANK  
848. Watch out! I know your craftiness very well,  
849. and your weaknesses have not escaped my notice.  
850. You paid your debts with my treasure;  
851. my ring paid for the giants' labor in building Valhalla.  
852. BLANK  
853. All that you swore then,  
854. are preserved in the runes carved on your spear.  
855. You wouldn't dare take back that fee you paid to the giants.  
856. If you did, your spear would snap in two,  
857. it would crumble to dust in your hands like chaff.  
858. BLANK  
859. No written treaty binds you, villain, to me.  
860. My spear subjugated you by its strength.  
861. And so, I guard it well.  
862. BLANK,  
863. How boldly you threaten me,  
864. and yet how fearful you are at heart!  
865. Whoever owns the treasure is doomed by my curse!  
866. BLANK  
867. Who will win it?  
868. Will it belong to me once again?  
869. That consumes you with worry!  
870. BLANK  
871. For if I were to have it again,  
872. I wouldn't waste the ring's power on building a castle.  
873. I would make you tremble before me!  
874. I will storm Valhalla with death's legions,  
875. and the world will be mine!  
876. BLANK  
877. I know what you intend to do, but I'm not troubled.  
878. BLANK  
879. The ring will be ruled by whoever wins it.  
880. How darkly you speak of what I know so clearly!  
881. Your defiance depends on your hero's son,  
882. dearly descended from your own blood.  
883. Haven't you reared a boy...  
884. who can win you the treasure that you yourself cannot?  
885. BLANK  
886. Don't quarrel with me, but with Mime.  
887. Your brother brings you danger.  
888. He is leading a young boy here to kill Fafner for himself.  
889. It has nothing to do with me, the Nibelung is using him for his own ends.  
890. So, I say to you, my friend,  
891. do as you see fit!  
892. BLANK  
893. Heed my words. Be on guard!

894. The boy knows nothing of the ring,  
895. but Mime will tell him.  
896. Would you keep your hands off the treasure?  
897. BLANK  
898. I love the boy, but he fends for himself.  
899. Whether he stands or falls, he is his own master.  
900. I can rely only on heroes.  
901. Then I contend for the ring with Mime alone?  
902. – No one else covets the gold besides you. – But even then I can't have it?  
903. BLANK  
904. A hero approaches to rescue the treasure,  
905. two Nibelungs covet the gold,  
906. Fafner, who guards the ring, will be killed.  
907. He who seizes it has won it.  
908. Would you know more?  
909. There lies the dragon.  
910. If you warn him of his coming death,  
911. maybe he will give up the treasure.  
912. I'll wake him for you.  
913. BLANK  
914. Fafner! Awake, dragon!  
915. BLANK  
916. What is this madman doing?  
917. Is he really giving me the treasure?  
918. BLANK  
919. Who disturbs my sleep?  
920. Someone has come to warn you of danger.  
921. He will save your life...  
922. if you repay him with the treasure you guard.  
923. BLANK  
924. What does he want?  
925. Wake up, Fafner! Wake up, you dragon!  
926. A mighty hero is coming to kill you.  
927. BLANK  
928. I am hungry for him!  
929. The child is bold and his sword cuts deep.  
930. He only wants the ring,  
931. give me the ring as a reward,  
932. and I will see that the fight doesn't happen.  
933. You can watch over your treasure and live on in peace.  
934. BLANK  
935. I will continue to hold on to what I possess.  
936. Let me sleep!  
937. BLANK  
938. Well, Alberich, that didn't work.  
939. But don't call me a fool!  
940. Pay heed to this counsel!

941. BLANK  
942. Everything goes its own way,  
943. you cannot alter its course.  
944. And now I leave you.  
945. Be on guard. Beware of your brother, Mime.  
946. He is your kind and you understand him.  
947. BLANK  
948. More than that...  
949. BLANK  
950. you will learn in good time!  
951. BLANK  
952. Away he rides on a shining steed,  
953. leaving me here in worry and derision.  
954. BLANK  
955. Well, laugh then, you frivolous clan of gods!  
956. BLANK  
957. I'll witness your demise!  
958. BLANK  
959. As long as gold glitters,  
960. I will keep watch.  
961. BLANK  
962. My tenacity will outlast you!  
963. BLANK  
964. This is the place, stay here!  
965. BLANK  
966. Is this where I am to learn fear?  
967. BLANK  
968. You've brought me so far.  
969. We walked together an entire night in the forest.  
970. Now, Mime, I don't need you anymore!  
971. If I don't learn what I need to here,  
972. I'll carry on alone.  
973. And I'll finally be rid of you!  
974. Believe me, boy. If you don't learn fear today,  
975. no other place or time will ever teach it to you.  
976. BLANK  
977. Do you see that dark cave?  
978. A grisly, terrifying dragon lives inside,  
979. indescribably big and fierce.  
980. He'll open his jaws wide,  
981. and gobble you up in one gulp, skin, hair and all.  
982. It would be good to shut his gullet once and for all,  
983. then it won't be able to bite me.  
984. A poisonous foam pours out of his mouth,  
985. if you are spattered with it, your flesh and bones dissolve.  
986. To make sure his venom doesn't harm me,  
987. I'll step aside, out of its way.

988. It has a terrible, thrashing serpent's tail,  
989. and if it entwines you, your limbs will break as if they were glass.  
990. To protect myself from the tail,  
991. I'll keep my eyes focused on the beast.  
992. Tell me this:  
993. BLANK  
994. – Does the dragon have a heart? – A cruel, hard heart.  
995. Does it lie in the same place as the rest of us?  
996. Yes, boy, the heart is in the same place.  
997. Now are you starting to get scared?  
998. If I were to plunge Nothung into the dragon's heart,  
999. Would you say I was scared?  
1000. BLANK  
1001. Hey old man! Is that all you can teach me?  
1002. Then be on your way.  
1003. I won't be learning fear here.  
1004. Wait! You think my words are empty.  
1005. You must see the dragon for yourself.  
1006. Your senses will fail you.  
1007. When your sight blurs, the ground rumbles under you,  
1008. and your heart quakes with fear...  
1009. BLANK  
1010. Then you'll thank me,  
1011. and remember how much Mime loves you.  
1012. You are not to love me! Haven't I told you?  
1013. Out of my sight! Leave me alone!  
1014. I can't stand it for one more second...  
1015. if you start again about love!  
1016. BLANK  
1017. All of your nodding and blinking,  
1018. when will I never see them again?  
1019. When will I be rid of this fool?  
1020. I'm leaving, I'll lie down by the spring there.  
1021. You stay here. When the sun is high, look out for the dragon.  
1022. BLANK  
1023. It will slither out of its cave,  
1024. then wind past here to drink at the fountain.  
1025. If you wait by the spring, I'll let the dragon go there.  
1026. I'll thrust Nothung into him only after he's gulped you down too.  
1027. Listen to my advice:  
1028. Don't wait there by the spring, take off as far as you can go,  
1029. and never come near me again!  
1030. After the battle,  
1031. you wouldn't forbid me to bring you refreshment, would you?  
1032. Call out if you need any advice,  
1033. or if you finally experience fear.  
1034. Fafner and Siegfried.

1035. Oh, if only they would kill each other!  
1036. BLANK  
1037. He's not my father, I'm so glad he's not!  
1038. Now I can enjoy the cool forest,  
1039. Daylight smiles on me now that he has left.  
1040. And I'll never have to see him again.  
1041. BLANK  
1042. What did my father really look like?  
1043. Ha! Like me of course!  
1044. For if Mime had a son, wouldn't he resemble Mime?  
1045. Just as ugly, grizzled and gray,  
1046. small and twisted, hunchbacked and limping,  
1047. with droopy ears and watery eyes?  
1048. Away with the imp!  
1049. I never want to see him again!  
1050. BLANK  
1051. But... what did my mother look like?  
1052. BLANK  
1053. I can't imagine that at all.  
1054. Were her bright eyes similar to a doe's?  
1055. Only more beautiful!  
1056. BLANK  
1057. Why did she have to die after giving birth to me?  
1058. BLANK  
1059. Do all human mothers die in child birth?  
1060. That would be sad indeed!  
1061. BLANK  
1062. If only I could see my mother!  
1063. BLANK  
1064. My mother... a human woman!  
1065. BLANK  
1066. Lovely little bird that I've not noticed before!  
1067. Do you live here in this forest?  
1068. If only I could understand its song!  
1069. Surely, it's telling me something... maybe about my mother?  
1070. BLANK  
1071. a dwarf once told me that one could follow bird-talk,  
1072. Could that really be possible?  
1073. Hey! I'll try to imitate it on a pipe.  
1074. If I don't think about words and follow the tune,  
1075. I'll play back what I hear, and maybe understand what it's telling me.  
1076. BLANK  
1077. It's listening now, so let me play!  
1078. BLANK  
1079. That doesn't sound quite right, the song doesn't work with this pipe.  
1080. Little bird, I'm too stupid, it's not so easy.  
1081. BLANK

1082. Now I'm ashamed.  
1083. It can't understand anything I'm playing.  
1084. Hey! Listen to my horn instead,  
1085. I can't do it right with that pipe.  
1086. Listen to this woodland tune, I'll play a cheerful one.  
1087. I've played it to call for a friend,  
1088. But nothing ever answered except a wolf and a bear.  
1089. Now let me see what it may bring,  
1090. maybe a new friend?  
1091. BLANK  
1092. Haha! Look what the lovely sight my tune has brought me!  
1093. You'll be my new best friend!  
1094. – Who's there? – Are you a beast who can talk?  
1095. Maybe I can learn something from you.  
1096. Here you see someone who doesn't know what fear is,  
1097. can you teach me?  
1098. Are you really that bold?  
1099. Bold or stupid, I'm not sure which!  
1100. But if you can't teach me what fear is, I'll kill you right away.  
1101. I was just out for a drink, now it looks like I'll have a snack as well!  
1102. BLANK  
1103. What a great mouth you have,  
1104. with a splendid array of dazzling teeth!  
1105. Let's close that gullet of yours,  
1106. it's open far too wide!  
1107. This mouth is not suited for chatter,  
1108. but it's sufficient to swallow you in one bite.  
1109. What a ferocious brute!  
1110. I'm not in the mood to be eaten.  
1111. I think it's better that you die here without delay.  
1112. Come on then, you bigmouth little kid.  
1113. Look out then, beast, the bigmouth is coming for you!  
1114. BLANK  
1115. So there, you brute!  
1116. Nothing has destroyed you!  
1117. Who are you, bold boy,  
1118. you who have pierced my heart?  
1119. BLANK  
1120. Who has encouraged this childish courage?  
1121. You didn't come up with this idea on your own.  
1122. There's so much I don't know, even who I really am.  
1123. But you yourself goaded me to kill you.  
1124. BLANK  
1125. Bright-eyed boy who doesn't know who he is,  
1126. I'll tell you whom you have murdered.  
1127. The giants' two ruling brothers, Fasolt and Fafner,  
1128. are now both dead.



1129. BLANK  
1130. Because of the cursed gold given by the gods,  
1131. I killed Fasolt.  
1132. Guarding the treasure in dragon's shape,  
1133. is Fafner, the last of the giants,  
1134. has now fallen to a pink-cheeked hero.  
1135. BLANK  
1136. Guard yourself well, young and fearless hero!  
1137. BLANK  
1138. Whoever prompted you in your naiveté to do this...  
1139. BLANK  
1140. is now plotting your death.  
1141. BLANK  
1142. This is how it will end, mark my words!  
1143. Then tell me where I come from,  
1144. in your death you seem so wise.  
1145. Maybe you would know from my name,  
1146. – My name is Siegfried. – Siegfried!  
1147. BLANK  
1148. The dead can tell no tales.  
1149. Then let my living sword lead me!  
1150. BLANK  
1151. Its blood burns like fire!  
1152. BLANK  
1153. It almost seems like the birds are talking to me.  
1154. BLANK  
1155. Did the taste of blood affect me?  
1156. That strange little bird there. Hey! What is it singing?  
1157. BLANK  
1158. The Nibelung's treasure now belongs to Siegfried!  
1159. He will find the gold in the cave.  
1160. Inside is the Tarnhelm, whose magic will perform wondrous deeds.  
1161. But the ring would make him ruler of the world!  
1162. BLANK  
1163. Thanks, dear little bird, for your advice,  
1164. BLANK  
1165. I'll gladly follow your call.  
1166. BLANK  
1167. Where are you slinking off to so slyly?  
1168. Damn you, I don't need you here! Why are you here?  
1169. Are you greedy for my gold? Do you covet my wealth?  
1170. Get away from here! This spot is mine, what are you looking for?  
1171. Am I disturbing your secret business?  
1172. You can't take away my hard work here.  
1173. Are you the one who stole the Rheingold to forge a ring?  
1174. Can you even imagine the ring's mighty power?  
1175. Who made the shape-shifting Tarnhelm?

1176. You wanted it, but I'm the one who forged it!  
1177. What do you know of the dark arts?  
1178. The ring's power put your skill at my service.  
1179. Where is the ring now? The giants stole it from you...  
1180. and now I'll gain what you lost.  
1181. Do you plan on taking what the boy has won?  
1182. It doesn't belong to you, the boy is the treasure's owner.  
1183. I brought him up and now he will repay that deed.  
1184. I've been waiting a long time for my reward!  
1185. And for rearing the boy you think you should be king?  
1186. The ring should go to a mangy dog before it goes to you,  
1187. You'll never be the master of the ring!  
1188. BLANK  
1189. Keep it then, and guard it well.  
1190. You be its master, but treat me with brotherly respect.  
1191. I'll take the Tarnhelm and you take the gold,  
1192. we'll share the spoils.  
1193. Share with you? And the Tarnhelm yet?  
1194. How very sly! I'd never sleep watching out for your traps!  
1195. No sharing? Can't I have anything?  
1196. Will you leave me with nothing? No reward? Totally empty-handed?  
1197. You won't get so much as a nail from me!  
1198. Then you won't get the ring or the Tarnhelm!  
1199. I'll call Siegfried to deal with you.  
1200. The boy will show you your place, dear brother.  
1201. Turn around! He's coming this way.  
1202. Surely he's chosen some childish trinket.  
1203. – He's holding the Tarnhelm. – And also the ring.  
1204. Get him to give you the ring. Then I'll get it for myself.  
1205. In the end, it will belong only to its master.  
1206. BLANK  
1207. I don't know what use you will be to me.  
1208. I took you from the pile of gold,  
1209. because I was advised to do it.  
1210. BLANK  
1211. Let your beauty serve as witness of today's events,  
1212. these trinkets proved that I killed Fafner.  
1213. But I still haven't learned what fear is.  
1214. BLANK  
1215. Hey! The ring and helmet belong to Siegfried now!  
1216. Oh! He must not trust in the treacherous Mime!  
1217. He must carefully listen to the villain's words!  
1218. Now he is be able to understand what Mime truly means.  
1219. Tasting Fafner's blood gives him this power.  
1220. BLANK  
1221. He is considering the worth of his prize.  
1222. BLANK

1223. Did the Wanderer beguile the boy,  
1224. convincing the boy with crafty talk and tales?  
1225. Now I must be twice as crafty.  
1226. I will lay out the shrewdest snare for him...  
1227. to fool the boy with friendly lies.  
1228. BLANK  
1229. Welcome! Siegfried!  
1230. Tell me, have you learned what fear is?  
1231. BLANK  
1232. I still haven't found a teacher!  
1233. But did you kill the dragon?  
1234. Wasn't he a fearful fellow?  
1235. As grim and nasty as he was, his death barely grieves me,  
1236. since there are far worse villains that still live unpunished!  
1237. I hate the one who told me to kill him...  
1238. more than the dragon!  
1239. Gently now! You won't be seeing me much longer.  
1240. I'll soon close your eyes to eternal sleep.  
1241. You have accomplished what I needed you for.  
1242. Now I just have to steal the spoils from you.  
1243. That should be easy to do,  
1244. you're so easy to fool.  
1245. So you're planning on doing me harm?  
1246. Did I say that? Siegfried! Listen to me, dear boy!  
1247. I've always hated you and your kind with all my heart,  
1248. I didn't raise you out of love,  
1249. it was all about getting the hoard of gold Fafner guarded.  
1250. If you don't give it to me gladly,  
1251. Siegfried, my son, you already know...  
1252. you must pay with your life.  
1253. I'm glad to hear that you hate me,  
1254. but must I pay you with my life?  
1255. Did I say that? You're getting it all wrong!  
1256. BLANK  
1257. You are tired from your exertion.  
1258. BLANK  
1259. You must be burning up,  
1260. and I have very caringly made you a refreshing drink.  
1261. As you were forging the sword, I brewed this broth.  
1262. If you drink it now, I'll win your sword, helmet and treasure!  
1263. BLANK  
1264. Then you would rob me of all I've won,  
1265. including sword and ring as well?  
1266. You are understanding me all wrong!  
1267. Did I stutter? Did I babble?  
1268. I've gone to great lengths to hide my thoughts,  
1269. and you, stupid boy, misunderstand me!

1270. Open your ears! Listen to me!  
1271. Hear what I mean.  
1272. BLANK  
1273. Here. Drink this refreshment. My drinks have refreshed you often.  
1274. Even when you became rude or angry,  
1275. you have always accepted whatever I offered you.  
1276. I would like a good drink; how did you brew this one?  
1277. Hey! Just drink it, trust in my skill!  
1278. Your senses will soon sink into a dark fog.  
1279. Your lifeless limbs will be stretched out.  
1280. As you lie there, I could take the prize and hide it.  
1281. But if you woke up,  
1282. I'd never be safe, even with the ring.  
1283. So, with the sword that you made so sharp,  
1284. I'll cut the child's head off.  
1285. Then, I'll finally have peace and the ring!  
1286. BLANK  
1287. You want to murder me in my sleep?  
1288. Want what? Did I say that?  
1289. BLANK  
1290. I only want to cut the child's head off!  
1291. Even if I didn't hate you so much,  
1292. and didn't have to avenge the shame of my labor,  
1293. I must not hesitate to get you out of the way.  
1294. How else could I seize the gold?  
1295. Since Alberich is also after it?  
1296. BLANK  
1297. Now, my Wälsung! Son of wolf!  
1298. Drink this and choke yourself to death!  
1299. It's the last drink you'll ever have!  
1300. Taste my sword, you loathsome, babbler!  
1301. BLANK  
1302. And so Nothung pays tribute to jealousy,  
1303. that is why I forged it.  
1304. BLANK  
1305. Lie in the cave on the treasure!  
1306. BLANK  
1307. You pursued it with cunning and perseverance,  
1308. now you can rule over its luster!  
1309. I will also give you a guardian to protect you from thieves.  
1310. BLANK  
1311. You lie there, too, dismal dragon!  
1312. Guard the shining treasure...  
1313. together with your envious enemy.  
1314. May you both find rest.  
1315. BLANK  
1316. I am hot from my task,

1317. fire races through my blood,  
1318. my head burns the palm of my hand.  
1319. The sun is high. It shines hotly on my head.  
1320. BLANK  
1321. I'll cool off under the shade of the lime tree.  
1322. BLANK  
1323. Once again, dear little bird,  
1324. since I disturbed you,  
1325. I'd like to listen to your song.  
1326. I see you rocking on the branch,  
1327. your brothers and sisters chirping around you,  
1328. flying about so lovingly.  
1329. BLANK  
1330. But I am so lonely,  
1331. I don't have any brothers or sisters.  
1332. My mother and father are dead.  
1333. They never saw their son.  
1334. My sole companion was a miserable dwarf.  
1335. There was never any love between us.  
1336. He set cunning traps for me.  
1337. At last I was forced to kill him!  
1338. BLANK  
1339. Friendly little bird, I ask you now:  
1340. BLANK  
1341. Would you be a good companion to me?  
1342. BLANK  
1343. Will you give me good advice?  
1344. I've often sought one, but never succeeded.  
1345. You will surely do better,  
1346. You advised me so well already.  
1347. BLANK  
1348. Now sing!  
1349. I'm listening to your song.  
1350. Siegfried has slain the evil dwarf!  
1351. Now I know a wife for him,  
1352. she is asleep on a high rock,  
1353. fire is burning all around her.  
1354. Should he go through the fire and wake her up,  
1355. Brünnhilde would be his.  
1356. Oh, beautiful song!  
1357. Sweetest breath! Its message burns in my chest!  
1358. How fiercely it inflames my heart!  
1359. What races so quickly through all my senses?  
1360. Tell me, sweet friend!  
1361. BLANK  
1362. I sing of love happily in sorrow.  
1363. BLANK

1364. I weave my song blissfully out of woe.  
1365. Only those filled with longing can understand.  
1366. It drives me forth with joy,  
1367. away out of the wood to the rock!  
1368. Tell me again, lovely song bird,  
1369. will I be able to break through the fire?  
1370. Will I be able to waken the bride?  
1371. BLANK  
1372. A coward will never win or waken Brünnhilde.  
1373. Only he who is fearless!  
1374. This stupid boy doesn't know fear,  
1375. that's me, little bird!  
1376. Even today I took pains to learn what fear is from Fafner.  
1377. Now I'm burning with happiness...  
1378. to learn it from Brünnhilde!  
1379. How shall find my way to the rock?  
1380. BLANK  
1381. The way will be shown to me, then.  
1382. Wherever you fly, I'll follow!  
1383. BLANK  
1384. Act III  
1385. BLANK  
1386. Awake, Wala!  
1387. I wake you out of a long sleep, slumberer.  
1388. I summon you. Arise.  
1389. Arise from your misty cave, from depths of darkness. Arise!  
1390. Erda! Eternal woman!  
1391. Rise up from your native home!  
1392. I sing you a call so that you may awaken.  
1393. I rouse you out of a brooding sleep.  
1394. All-knowing one! Forever wise one! Erda!  
1395. Eternal woman! Arise! Wala, arise!  
1396. BLANK  
1397. Your song of summoning is powerful,  
1398. the strong magic rouses me.  
1399. I have wakened out of an all-knowing sleep.  
1400. Who has disturbed my slumber?  
1401. BLANK  
1402. I am the caller,  
1403. and I have used spells to rouse you from afar.  
1404. I have wandered the world, far and wide,  
1405. in search of knowledge and ancient wisdom.  
1406. There is no one wiser than you.  
1407. You know what is concealed in the depths,  
1408. what links mountain and valley, air and water.  
1409. Your breath moves wherever there is life,  
1410. Your mind is present wherever brains are thinking.

1411. They say everything is known to you.  
1412. BLANK  
1413. I am in need of knowledge,  
1414. BLANK  
1415. that is why I awaken you out of sleep!  
1416. BLANK  
1417. My sleep is dreaming,  
1418. my dreaming is pondering,  
1419. my pondering is mastery of wisdom.  
1420. But while I sleep, the Norns are awake.  
1421. They weave the rope and faithfully spin what I know.  
1422. Why don't you ask the Norns?  
1423. What they spin is subservient to the world,  
1424. they can't turn about or alter anything.  
1425. But I'd be grateful to learn from your wisdom...  
1426. on how to stop the turning wheel of events.  
1427. BLANK  
1428. My mind is cloudy with the deeds of men.  
1429. I myself, the knowing one, was once overpowered by a conqueror.  
1430. BLANK  
1431. I bore a wish-maiden to Wotan,  
1432. Her charge was to bring him heroes from the battlefield.  
1433. She is both brave and wise,  
1434. Why do you wake me...  
1435. and not seek wisdom from the child of Erda and Wotan?  
1436. Do you mean the Valkyrie Brünnhilde?  
1437. She defied the lord of storms,  
1438. and he restrained himself with great difficulty...  
1439. from what he longed to do...  
1440. but did not act... against his will.  
1441. Brünnhilde tried to accomplish what I forbade.  
1442. The war father punished the maiden,  
1443. closing her eyes in deep sleep.  
1444. She sleeps soundly upon a rock,  
1445. only to be wife to the hero that awakens her.  
1446. It's of no use to ask her any questions.  
1447. BLANK  
1448. I've become confused since I awoke.  
1449. The world is unruly and spins wildly!  
1450. The Valkyrie, the Wala's child,  
1451. is atoning in bonds of sleep...  
1452. while her omniscient mother slept?  
1453. He who taught defiance now punishes defiance?  
1454. He who is responsible for the deed...  
1455. is angry when it is done?  
1456. He who defends rights and protects oaths...  
1457. banishes those rights and rules by perjury?

1458. Let me descend again!  
1459. Let sleep seal up my wisdom!  
1460. I won't let you go, mother,  
1461. for my magic is powerful.  
1462. In your primeval knowledge, you once thrust  
1463. the thorn of anxiety in Wotan's heart.  
1464. Your knowledge filled him with fear of a shameful end,  
1465. so that his spirit was fettered with terror.  
1466. BLANK  
1467. Since you are the wisest of all women, tell me this:  
1468. how can the god conquer his fear?  
1469. You are not what you call yourself!  
1470. Wild and stubborn!  
1471. Why did you disturb my slumber?  
1472. You are not what you believe.  
1473. The earth-mother's wisdom is coming to an end.  
1474. Your wisdom will wither before my will.  
1475. Do you know Wotan's will?  
1476. BLANK  
1477. Unwise one, I will whisper it in your ear,  
1478. so that you may sleep carefree forever!  
1479. BLANK  
1480. I no longer fear the gods' downfall,  
1481. since that is what I wish.  
1482. BLANK  
1483. What once I resolved to do in despair...  
1484. now I gladly perform of my own free will.  
1485. BLANK  
1486. Though in fury I flung the world to the Nibelung's envy,  
1487. I now bequeath my realm to that glorious Wälsung.  
1488. BLANK  
1489. I have chosen him, though he doesn't know me,  
1490. the bravest of youths, untaught by my counsel,  
1491. has won the Nibelung's ring.  
1492. BLANK  
1493. Made joyful by love, free of envy,  
1494. Alberich's curse is powerless against him,  
1495. and fear is still unknown to him.  
1496. BLANK  
1497. The daughter you bore me, Brünnhilde,  
1498. will be fondly awakened by the hero.  
1499. Once awakened, the child of your wisdom...  
1500. will redeem the world.  
1501. Now close your eyes and go back to sleep.  
1502. In your dreams, watch my downfall.  
1503. Whatever else may happen, the god gladly yields his power.  
1504. Descend now, Erda!



1505. Mother of fear...  
1506. of timeless sorrow!  
1507. Descend to eternal sleep!  
1508. BLANK  
1509. I see Siegfried is approaching.  
1510. BLANK  
1511. My little bird has flown away!  
1512. With flight and sweet song, it showed me the way;  
1513. and now it has disappeared!  
1514. Now I must find the mountain by myself.  
1515. BLANK  
1516. I'll keep the same direction my guide showed me.  
1517. BLANK  
1518. Where is your path taking you, young man?  
1519. Did I hear something?  
1520. Maybe he can show me the way.  
1521. I'm looking for a rock surrounded by fire.  
1522. There's a woman sleeping there I want to wake.  
1523. BLANK  
1524. Who told you to seek the rock?  
1525. Or to wake the woman?  
1526. A forest bird told me. It gave me the good news.  
1527. Birds may chatter, but no one can understand them.  
1528. How could you make sense of it?  
1529. That was the effect of a dragon's blood I killed at Neidhöle.  
1530. As soon as it touched my tongue, I could understand the bird.  
1531. If you killed the giant, who goaded you to take on the dragon?  
1532. A treacherous dwarf named Mime led me.  
1533. He wanted to teach me about fear.  
1534. I ran him through with my sword,  
1535. and the dragon himself provoked me.  
1536. Who made the sword that could slay the strongest foe?  
1537. I forged it all by myself since the smith was unable.  
1538. Otherwise, I'd still be without a sword.  
1539. BLANK  
1540. But where did the strong pieces come from...  
1541. that you used to forge the sword?  
1542. All I know is that the pieces were useless...  
1543. unless I made a new sword out of them.  
1544. I guess so!  
1545. BLANK  
1546. Why are you laughing at me?  
1547. Listen here, old man, I'm tired of this chatter.  
1548. If you can show me the way, then do it.  
1549. If you can't, then say no more!  
1550. BLANK  
1551. Patience, boy! If I seem old, then show me some respect.

1552. That's too bad!  
1553. All my life an old man has stood in my way,  
1554. but I got rid of him!  
1555. If you insist on barring my way,  
1556. you'll wind up just like Mime did!  
1557. BLANK  
1558. What do you really look like?  
1559. Why do you wear such a big hat?  
1560. Why does it hang over your face?  
1561. This is the Wanderer's way...  
1562. when he walks facing the wind.  
1563. Is one of your eyes missing under there?  
1564. Someone poked it out, I'm sure,  
1565. when you were standing in the way.  
1566. Get out of my way or you might lose the other one.  
1567. I see, my son, that you know nothing...  
1568. except how to get your way.  
1569. Since I am missing this eye,  
1570. you're looking at the one I have left to see with.  
1571. BLANK  
1572. You make me laugh!  
1573. But I can't stay here and talk any longer.  
1574. Quickly, show me the way,  
1575. then be off on yours.  
1576. I don't need anything else from you,  
1577. so talk, or I'll push you aside!  
1578. BLANK  
1579. If you knew who I was, insolent boy,  
1580. BLANK  
1581. you wouldn't talk to me this way.  
1582. Your threats distress me, coming from one so dear to me.  
1583. I have always loved your family,  
1584. but my wrath also gave you cause for fear.  
1585. BLANK  
1586. You whom I love, glorious hero,  
1587. do not rouse my wrath today.  
1588. It would destroy us both!  
1589. Are you playing dumb, old fool?  
1590. Out of the way! I'm going to the sleeping woman,  
1591. like the bird showed me, before it flew off.  
1592. It flew away for its own good.  
1593. The lord of the ravens is here.  
1594. It'd be a pity if they caught it!  
1595. BLANK  
1596. Do not take the way it showed you!  
1597. You're forbidding me?  
1598. Who are you to forbid me to do anything?

1599. Fear the guardian of the rock!  
1600. It is my might that keeps the maiden a prisoner.  
1601. He who wakes her and wins her...  
1602. makes me powerless forever!  
1603. A sea of fire surrounds her,  
1604. red hot flames lick around the rock.  
1605. Whoever seeks her must face the fiery fury.  
1606. BLANK  
1607. Behold the height!  
1608. BLANK  
1609. Can you see the light?  
1610. The blaze is spreading,  
1611. the glow is growing,  
1612. scorching clouds, flickering flames,  
1613. burning and falling down towards us.  
1614. A great light illuminates your head,  
1615. Soon the raging fire will consume you.  
1616. Get back, you reckless boy!  
1617. Get back yourself!  
1618. I must go to the heart of the blaze, to Brünnhilde!  
1619. If the fire doesn't frighten you,  
1620. then fear my spear!  
1621. BLANK  
1622. My hand still holds the ruling spear.  
1623. That sword you're holding was once shattered by this spear;  
1624. and it will be splintered once again on my eternal spear!  
1625. My father's foe, is that who you are?  
1626. How glorious revenge will be!  
1627. Swing your spear, my sword will smash it to pieces!  
1628. BLANK  
1629. Go on then. I can't stop you!  
1630. BLANK  
1631. Does the coward escape me with his spear in splinters?  
1632. BLANK  
1633. Wondrous glow! Glittering radiance!  
1634. BLANK  
1635. The gleaming path is now open to me.  
1636. I'll bathe in the fire and find my bride!  
1637. BLANK  
1638. Now I finally find my dear companion!  
1639. BLANK  
1640. What beautiful solitude on the summit!  
1641. BLANK  
1642. What is that sleeping in the forest?  
1643. BLANK  
1644. It's a steed, resting in a deep sleep.  
1645. What is that shining in my face?

1646. A glittering suit of steel?  
1647. Am I still blinded by the fire?  
1648. BLANK  
1649. Shiny weapons? Shall I pick them up?  
1650. BLANK  
1651. Ah! There's a man in his armor!  
1652. BLANK  
1653. I'm delighted at the sight!  
1654. Does the helmet constrict his head?  
1655. It'd be easier on him if I loosened it.  
1656. BLANK  
1657. Ah, how beautiful!  
1658. BLANK  
1659. The clouds are like waves on the sea of heaven.  
1660. The face of the sun shines through the clouds!  
1661. BLANK  
1662. His chest heaves as he breathes.  
1663. BLANK  
1664. Should I cut away his breastplate?  
1665. BLANK  
1666. Come, my sword, sever the metal!  
1667. BLANK  
1668. This is no man!  
1669. BLANK  
1670. A burning magic pierces my heart.  
1671. A fiery fear seizes my eyes.  
1672. All of my senses are failing!  
1673. BLANK  
1674. Who could I call on for help?  
1675. Mother!  
1676. Think of me!  
1677. BLANK  
1678. How can I wake her so that she opens her eyes?  
1679. BLANK  
1680. Wouldn't their gaze blind me though?  
1681. Do I dare do it? Could I bear their light?  
1682. BLANK  
1683. Everything is swaying and staggering around me!  
1684. BLANK  
1685. A painful yearning burns my senses,  
1686. My hands are trembling and my heart is pounding!  
1687. BLANK  
1688. Is this what fear is?  
1689. BLANK  
1690. Oh Mother! Here is your courageous child!  
1691. A woman lies sleeping here;  
1692. BLANK

1693. and she has taught him what fear is!  
1694. BLANK  
1695. How do I conquer this fear?  
1696. I must waken the maid so that I myself may awake!  
1697. BLANK  
1698. Her rosy mouth quivers sweetly!  
1699. BLANK  
1700. Her soft trembling soothes my fear.  
1701. BLANK  
1702. Ah! Her breath is delightfully fragrant!  
1703. BLANK  
1704. Wake up, holiest of women!  
1705. BLANK  
1706. She can't hear me.  
1707. Then I'll gather life out of those sweet lips...  
1708. BLANK  
1709. even if I die by the kiss!  
1710. BLANK  
1711. Hail to you, sun!  
1712. BLANK  
1713. Hail to you, light!  
1714. BLANK  
1715. Hail to you, glorious day!  
1716. BLANK  
1717. I've been asleep so long,  
1718. but now I've been awakened.  
1719. Who is the hero who has woken me up?  
1720. BLANK  
1721. I forced my way through the fire around the rock.  
1722. I loosened your helmet.  
1723. I am Siegfried and I have awakened you.  
1724. Hail to you, gods!  
1725. Hail to you, world!  
1726. Hail to you, beautiful earth!  
1727. BLANK  
1728. My sleep has come to an end.  
1729. My eyes are opened.  
1730. It is Siegfried who has woken me up!  
1731. Hail to my life-giving mother!  
1732. Hail to the nourishing earth!  
1733. How joyful I am to see those beautiful eyes!  
1734. BLANK  
1735. Oh, Siegfried! Blessed hero!  
1736. You giver of life, triumphant light!  
1737. BLANK  
1738. If you only knew, joy of my world,  
1739. that I have always loved you!

1740. You were my every thought, my every care!  
1741. I nourished you even before you were born.  
1742. My shield protected you while you were in the womb.  
1743. That's how long I have loved you, Siegfried!  
1744. So, my mother didn't die? Was she only asleep?  
1745. BLANK  
1746. Dearest child, your mother won't come back to you.  
1747. BLANK  
1748. I am your very self,  
1749. and if you love me, we will be united as one.  
1750. What you don't know, I know for you.  
1751. But I only have this knowledge because I love you!  
1752. BLANK  
1753. Oh, Siegfried! Conquering light!  
1754. I have always loved you,  
1755. I was the one who truly knew Wotan's wishes,  
1756. those wishes that I never dared express,  
1757. that I couldn't think about but only felt,  
1758. for which I fought, battled and strove,  
1759. for which I defied the one who conceived them.  
1760. For which I have paid penance,  
1761. because I could not think it,  
1762. I only felt it!  
1763. That thought, you may have guessed,  
1764. was born out of my love for you!  
1765. BLANK  
1766. Her song is so beautiful,  
1767. but its meaning isn't clear.  
1768. I see light in your sparkling eyes,  
1769. I feel the warmth of your breath,  
1770. I hear your sweet singing.  
1771. But I can't understand what you're telling me.  
1772. BLANK  
1773. My mind can't grasp the things of the past...  
1774. because all of my senses are full of you!  
1775. BLANK  
1776. You have fettered me with fears,  
1777. you have taught me anguish.  
1778. You have me in powerful bonds,  
1779. now give me freedom again!  
1780. BLANK  
1781. I see Grane there, my trusty steed.  
1782. He's happily grazing. Was he asleep like me?  
1783. Siegfried woke him with me.  
1784. BLANK  
1785. My eyes are fixed on your lovely mouth,  
1786. my lips burn with thirst,

1787. may your beautiful eyes quench their thirst.  
1788. BLANK  
1789. I see my shield there that sheltered heroes.  
1790. BLANK  
1791. There is the helmet that protected my head.  
1792. They no longer protect me.  
1793. BLANK  
1794. A woman has wounded my heart,  
1795. and captured my mind,  
1796. but I did not come with a shield or helmet!  
1797. I see the breastplate's shining steel,  
1798. a sharp sword has cut it in two,  
1799. my body loosened from the armor.  
1800. BLANK  
1801. I am exposed and unprotected, a weak woman!  
1802. I forced my way to you through a blazing fire.  
1803. I wore no armor to protect my body.  
1804. Now a fire has ignited in my heart,  
1805. my blood is a glowing blaze of passion.  
1806. A consuming fire is kindled in me.  
1807. The flames that once surrounded Brünnhilde's rock...  
1808. now burn in my chest!  
1809. Oh woman, extinguish those flames!  
1810. Still this seething fire!  
1811. BLANK  
1812. No god ever came so close to me!  
1813. Heroes bowed before my virginity.  
1814. I was hallowed in Valhalla.  
1815. BLANK  
1816. What sorrow!  
1817. What shameful disgrace!  
1818. The one who woke me has wounded me!  
1819. BLANK  
1820. He broke open my armor.  
1821. I'm no longer Brünnhilde!  
1822. BLANK  
1823. You are still the dreaming maid to me.  
1824. I have not woken you up yet.  
1825. Awaken to become my wife!  
1826. BLANK  
1827. My senses are in a whirl,  
1828. my wisdom is silent.  
1829. Must my knowledge wither?  
1830. BLANK  
1831. Didn't you sing to me that your wisdom was...  
1832. the light leading to your love for me?  
1833. BLANK

1834. A sad darkness is clouding my sight.  
1835. My eyes darken, my light dims.  
1836. BLANK  
1837. Night is all around me.  
1838. BLANK  
1839. A frenzy of fear is coiling out of the gloomy clouds.  
1840. BLANK  
1841. Terror rears up to me!  
1842. BLANK  
1843. Night is blinding you.  
1844. Your gloomy fears will vanish.  
1845. BLANK  
1846. Rise out of the darkness and see.  
1847. The day is shining bright in the sun!  
1848. My shame shines as bright as the sun!  
1849. Oh, Siegfried! Look at my anguish!  
1850. BLANK  
1851. I always was, and I always am...  
1852. in sweet and yearning happiness,  
1853. but only for your sake!  
1854. Oh, Siegfried, glorious being! Treasure of the world!  
1855. Life of the earth! Smiling hero!  
1856. Ah, leave me, let me go!  
1857. Do not get close to me with passion,  
1858. do not compel me with pressure.  
1859. Don't destroy your beloved!  
1860. BLANK  
1861. Did you ever see your reflection in a clear brook?  
1862. Didn't its image make you glad?  
1863. Had you stirred the water,  
1864. the brook's clear surface would dissolve,  
1865. and you wouldn't see yourself any longer,  
1866. only the rocking water!  
1867. BLANK  
1868. So, do not touch me,  
1869. Do not upset me!  
1870. BLANK  
1871. Then, you will smile forever with happiness,  
1872. ever bright, see myself in you,  
1873. a joyous hero!  
1874. Oh, Siegfried, radiant youth!  
1875. Love yourself and leave me alone,  
1876. Do not destroy what is your own!  
1877. I love you! Ah, if you only loved me!  
1878. I am no longer myself. Ah, if I only had you!  
1879. BLANK  
1880. A glorious flood flows before me,



1881. I feel it with all of my senses,  
1882. a sweet, surging sea.  
1883. BLANK  
1884. If it breaks my reflection, I burn to cool my heart in the water,  
1885. I'll leap as I am into the water.  
1886. I'd be so happy if its waves would swallow me up,  
1887. all of my longing disappearing into its flood!  
1888. BLANK  
1889. Awake, Brünnhilde!  
1890. Live and laugh, oh sweetest joy!  
1891. Be mine!  
1892. BLANK  
1893. Oh, Siegfried!  
1894. I have always been yours!  
1895. If you have always been, then be so now!  
1896. BLANK  
1897. I will be yours forever!  
1898. What you will be, be for me today!  
1899. BLANK  
1900. Let me hold you tightly.  
1901. My heart beats passionately against yours,  
1902. our gaze on fire, breathing the same breath,  
1903. eye to eye, mouth to mouth!  
1904. Then you will be to me what in fear you were!  
1905. Then all doubt will be gone...  
1906. whether Brünnhilde will be mine!  
1907. Whether I am yours?  
1908. BLANK  
1909. Divine peace floods my soul,  
1910. purest light blazes in passion,  
1911. heaven's wisdom is rushing out of me,  
1912. chased out by the joy of love!  
1913. BLANK  
1914. Whether I am yours?  
1915. Siegfried!  
1916. Can't you see me?  
1917. BLANK  
1918. Doesn't my devouring glance blind you?  
1919. As my arms hold you,  
1920. aren't you set on fire?  
1921. As my blood surges,  
1922. don't you feel its fire?  
1923. Siegfried, don't you fear this wild and passionate woman?  
1924. BLANK  
1925. As our blood sets us on fire,  
1926. our eyes scorch one another.  
1927. As our arms hold one another,

1928. my daring and courage return,  
1929. and the fear I never learned,  
1930. fear that you have taught me...  
1931. I've already completely forgotten it.  
1932. Oh, childlike hero! Beautiful boy!  
1933. You guileless treasure of sublime deeds!  
1934. BLANK  
1935. I love you with laughter, I would go blind with laughter,  
1936. may we perish with laughter, go to our destruction with laughter!  
1937. I'll awaken you with laughter, joyous woman!  
1938. Farewell, Valhalla's light-giving world!  
1939. May your fortress crumble in ruin!  
1940. Farewell to the divinity of the gods!  
1941. May your demise be blissful!  
1942. Norns, tear up the rope of runes!  
1943. – Hail to the world! – Descend, dusk of the gods!  
1944. She's awake and smiling at me.  
1945. Your star shines on me.  
1946. She's mine forever! He's mine forever!  
1947. Shining love! Laughing death!  
1948. BLANK